

# THE COMET.

TENTH YEAR.

JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE, DECEMBER 28, 1893.

WHOLE NO. 496.



Mrs. L. Townsend  
Rising Sun, Delaware.

## Good Family Medicines

**Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills.**

"I regard Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills, the very best family medicines, and we are never without them. I have always been

### A Delicate Woman

and began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla three years ago for that tired feeling. It built me up so quickly and so well that I feel like a different woman and have always had great faith in it. I give it to my children whenever there seems any trouble with their blood, and it does them good. My little boy likes it so well he cries for it. I cannot find words to tell how highly I prize it. We use Hood's Pills in the family and they

### Act Like a Charm

I take pleasure in recommending these medicines to all my friends, for I believe if people

**Hood's Cures**

would only keep Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills at hand as we do, much sickness and suffering would be prevented." Mrs. L. Townsend, Rising Sun, Delaware.

**Hood's Pills** act easily, yet promptly and efficiently, on the liver and bowels. 25c.

## REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK AT

Johnson City, in the State of Tennessee, at the Close of Business, December 19, 1893.

### RESOURCES.

Loans and discounts	113,693 62
U. S. Bonds to secure circulation	12,500
Stocks, securities, etc.	6,066 42
Banking house, Furniture and Fixtures	10,000
Other real estate and mortgages owned	9,256 93
Due from National Banks (not Reserve Agents)	86 87
Due from State Banks and Bankers	126 51
Due from approved reserve agents	3,791 29
Checks and other cash items	731 86
Fractional paper currency, notes and coins	426 59
LAWFUL MONEY RESERVE IN BANK:	
Specie	44,129 00
Legal tender notes	3,774 00
	7,903
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (5 per cent of circulation)	562 50
Total	\$165,203 69

### LIABILITIES.

Capital stock paid in	\$ 50,000
Surplus Fund	5,000
Undivided profits	309 82
National Bank notes outstanding	11,250
Due to other National Banks	5,088 71
Individual deposits subject to check	29,115 67
Demand certificates of deposit	4,224 93
Time certificates of deposit	52,312 80
Notes and bills re-discounted	7,951 60
Total	\$165,203 69

State of Tennessee, County of Washington:  
I, J. E. CRANDALL, President of the above named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. E. CRANDALL,  
President.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of Dec., 1893.

Correct—Attest: EDWARD D. DUNCAN,  
Notary Public.  
W. A. THUSLOW,  
J. P. HOPPLE,  
F. K. MOUNTCASTLE,  
Directors.

### Stockholders' Meeting.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank of Johnson City, Tennessee, will be held at their banking house in Johnson City on Tuesday, 9th of January, 1894, 493-4t J. E. CRANDALL, President.

### Lost.

Two warranty deeds. One from S. T. Harris and wife to Dr. H. Brown, and one from Dr. H. Brown to Eliza May Cooper. Return to THE COMET office and receive reward. 496 tf

## INTERESTING STEAL.

Partial Payment to the State of a Defalcation.

Twenty Years ago J. A. Branscomb, Trustee of Washington County, De-

faulted in the sum of \$18,000.

Nashville, Dec. 22.—A certain \$5,040 suddenly turned up to the comptroller's office yesterday which has not been calculated in the state's assets for many a day. It is a partial payment on a defalcation of a county official just twenty years ago, and came in by way of a recent supreme court decision.

In 1873 Trustee J. Branscomb, of Washington county, was discovered to be about \$18,000 short in his accounts. Shortly after that time the state recovered in various ways about \$5,000 of the principal and interest of the amount. To this should now be added the \$5,040 received yesterday, making a total of \$10,040 recovered.

The story of the case is peculiarly interesting, bringing into special prominence two of Branscomb's bondsmen, E. S. Cox and John Rhea Spurgeon.

When E. S. Cox learned of Branscomb's condition, he transferred his property to his brother, John D. Cox. Several years ago E. S. Cox died and his children sued John D. Cox for the estate on the grounds that the transfer was made for fraudulent purposes. On this the court declared the conveyance void and ordered the estate turned over to the children. This was not done, however, as John D. and E. S. had been partners in a store, and through this he kept possession of the property.

Of course, the plea of fraudulent intent backed by the decision of the court put the State's Attorney on the track. So a bill was filed to recover the money, on the grounds that the conveyance from E. S. to John D. was void, and that the money was due the state from E. S. as a bondsmen of Branscomb. The court decided that the state's claim was just and rendered a judgment against John D. John D. appealed, but the decree of the lower court was affirmed by the supreme court at Knoxville recently and today the money, the \$5,040, came sailing in from Jonesboro, where John D. Cox at present resides.

Now, as to John Rhea Spurgeon. When Branscomb defaulted, he, too, transferred his property, it going to his brother Thomas Spurgeon. Afterwards Thomas died and willed the property to his children. Then John Rhea came into court and said the property was his as it had only been transferred by mortgage. On the trial it was developed by witnesses that the property was conveyed to prevent an execution from issuing to cover Branscomb's shortage. The court held that the transfer was a mortgage and diverted the title to the property out of the children of Thomas Spurgeon and vested it in John Rhea Spurgeon, the bondsmen of Branscomb.

Here, again attorneys for the State caught on, and last week, by direction of Comptroller Harris, a bill was filed against John Rhea Spurgeon for the balance of the principal and interest of Branscomb's shortage.

This case in various phases has been in court for twenty years. Branscomb died long since.

### Mitchell Is Confident.

New York, Dec. 24.—Pugilist Charley Mitchell arrived in New York this morning from Boston and left in the afternoon for Philadelphia. He will remain in the Quaker City until Tuesday, when he will start for Jacksonville and go into his training quarters. He will have a cook with him, and all of the food he consumes will be sent down to him from Philadelphia. He will be met in Florida next week by Jim Hall and Steve O'Donnell. Mitchell looks exceptionally well and he expressed himself as being perfectly confident that he would come out victorious in the fight.

### Peixoto Acts Wisely.

Pernambuco, Dec. 25.—President Peixoto has recalled the order of expulsion of foreigners.

## NO IDLE TALK,

But a

## SLAUGHTER SALE

of the

## FINEST AND BEST STOCK OF DRY GOODS EVER

OFFERED TO THE PUBLIC IN JOHNSON CITY

Is what is now going on at Burris & Jackson's. We wish to

## CLOSE OUT THE ENTIRE STOCK,

Everything is being sacrificed.

If you want

## Bargains

And know when you are getting them, you will not fail to Call and see us. Respectfully,

**BURRIS & JACKSON.**

### EWING---BEECHER.

Vice-President Steven's Niece Married Last Night.

Baltimore, Dec. 25.—The marriage of Miss Frances Ewing, daughter of Judge Ewing, United States Minister to Brussels, and niece of Vice-President Stevenson, to B. Baylis Beecher, a prominent banker of Memphis, Tenn., took place to-night at St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church. The ceremony was performed by Rev. F. W. Clappitt, rector of the church, who is a brother-in-law of the bride, assisted by Rt. Rev. Wm. Faret, Bishop of the Diocese of Maryland.

The bride was given away by her uncle, Vice President Stevenson. The only other attendant of the bridal party was Miss Julia Stevenson, daughter of the Vice-President, who was maid of honor. The bride wore white silk, with diamonds. A reception followed at the residence of Rev. Mr. Clappitt, after which Mr. Mrs. Beecher left for an extended tour of the West and Northwest. They will reside in Memphis.

### KENTUCKY MALTING CO.

The Failure a Bad One and the Assets Small.

Louisville, Dec. 21.—Late developments in the Kentucky Malting Company's affairs, which recently failed, show a bad state of affairs. It is hardly probable now that the creditors will receive more than 25 cents on the dollar. E. W. Herman, President of the company, has gone to Augusta, Ga., to assist the receiver of his brewery interest there. He said before leaving that he would return to face his creditors when the time comes. The liabilities of the Kentucky Malting Company are about \$500,000. In addition to this Mr. Herman's private indebtedness amounts to about \$150,000, most of which is due to thrifty Germans of this city, who placed their savings in his keeping. To meet this private indebtedness there is no available assets and the creditors will lose everything. The creditors of the concern are scattered over the country in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Kentucky. The plant is one of the best of its kind in the State, and cost the company \$170,000. The total assets of the firm will not be more than \$160,000 at the most.

### Prince Pedro in Paris.

Paris, Dec. 25.—Prince Pedro has arrived here on his way to spend Christmas with his parents, Count and Countess D'Eu, at their villa at Boulogne Sur Seine. The prince's visit has no political object.

### Safe Blown Open.

Clarksville, Dec. 21.—The safe in the depot at Russellville, Ky., was blown open last night and contents stolen. No particulars known.

### HIS GHASTLY HEAD

Found on a Stump and the Body Near By—Supposed to Be From Ohio.

Arkansas City, Kan., Dec. 23.—Mr. Higgins, of Kansas City, who returned this morning from a visit to a friend holding down a claim just west of Kildare, in the Strip, says that a few days ago he, with his friend, was hunting along the small creek near by, when they came upon the most horrible sight on which he had ever looked. On a stump near the creek bank was the head of a man which had been severed from the body and placed on the top of the stump, the eyes staring at the visitors, the heavy black hair disheveled. In a low place in the grass near the stump lay the headless trunk, stark naked and a bullet hole through the breast.

While contemplating this ghastly spectacle two other men passed near enough to be hailed. They soon recognized the features as those of a stranger who had recently been making considerable trouble by trying to jump a fine claim a little further down the creek. They said he had either lived near Belaire, Ohio, or had friends in that region.

Mr. Higgins reports that the claim-holders appeared to be greatly relieved at the discovery that the claim-jumper had been "removed" in proper manner. He said that the action of some of the officers and newspapers in espousing the cause of the outlaw class and standing by them in their outrageous work has made the settlers in that section desperate, and he will be surprised if there is not much more of this kind of summary work before spring.

### Bicycle Records Broken.

New York, Dec. 25.—Records were smashed this morning at the six day bicycle race at Madison Square Garden. The 100 mile record, which was six hours and twenty minutes and held by Arthur Robe, was broken by Van Emburg. He made the distance in five hours and thirty minutes, and Hosmer has broken the twelve hour record, which was 176 miles and seven laps, made by Prince in 1891.

Hosmer in the time made 206 miles and four laps. Score for twelve hours ending today: Hosmer, 206 miles; Martin, 205; Waller, 204; Schock, 200; Starbuck, 194; Asinger, 192; Van Emburg, 189; Albert, 188; Meixell, 174; Golden, 163; Barton, 150; Fuller, 131; Forwalt, 119 miles.

### Yesterday's Earthquake.

Bedford, Pa., Dec. 25.—Reports from various parts of this county indicate that yesterday's earthquake lasted eighteen or twenty seconds. In many places houses were shaken to such an extent as to seriously alarm the inmates. The shock appears to have travelled in a southerly direction and was most perceptible to those persons living near the mountains.

### Wonderful Epistle.

This interesting article over 200 years ago fell into the hands of a family living in Stafford County, Virginia, who during all this elapse of time kept it in their possession.

It was handed down from one member to another until it has reached '93. It never passed out of the family until 1879, when one of them upon her deathbed gave a copy to Mrs. M. F. Towson, a near neighbor. Mrs. Towson gave a copy to her niece, Mrs. L. E. Fletcher, who is a first cousin to ex-Governor William Smith, of Virginia, and she gave a copy to Rev. P. C. Fletcher, her son, who is now living in Rome.

This is the first time during the 1700 years of its existence that it has ever been in print.

Those who have a copy of this wonderful letter written by the blessed Saviour's own hands prize it very highly and believe in its genuineness.

### WHEN IT WAS COPIED.

Written for Mrs. M. F. Towson  
August 21st, 1879,  
And given to Lou E. Fletcher, with  
Her Blessings,  
February 15th, 1890.

### HISTORY OF THE FINDING.

Glory be to God on earth, and good will to all men.

Being a letter written by our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, and found eighteen miles from Iconium, sixty-five years after our blessed Saviour's crucifixion, transmitted from the holy city, by a converted Jew, faithfully translated from the original Hebrew copy now in the possession of the Lady Incubasee's family at Mesopotamia.

This letter was written by Jesus Christ, and found under a great stone both round and long, at the foot of the cross, eighteen miles from Iconium, near the village called Mesopotamia. Upon that stone was written and engraved: "Blessed is he that shall turn me over." All the people that saw it prayed God earnestly and desired that He would make known to them the meaning of the writing, that they might not attempt in vain to turn it over. In the meantime there came a little child about six or seven years old, and turned it without help, to the admiration of all the people that stood by, and under this stone was Cubasee's family, and in this letter was written the commandments of Jesus Christ, signed by the Angel Gabriel ninety-nine years after our Saviour's birth."

### THE LETTER.

"Whosoever works on the Sabbath day shall be cursed. I command you to go to church and keep the Lord's day holy without any manner of work, you shall not idle nor misspend your time in bedecking yourselves in superfluities of costly apparel and vain dressing, for I have ordered it a day of rest. I will have that day kept holy that your sins may be forgiven you. You shall not break my commandments but observe and keep them, they being written with my own hand and spoken with my own mouth. You shall not only go to church yourselves, but also your man servant and your maid servant, observe my words and learn my commandments. You shall finish your labour every Saturday at 6 o'clock in the afternoon at which hour the preparation of the Sabbath begins. I advise you to fast five Fridays in the year, beginning at Good Friday and continuing the five Fridays following in remembrance of the five bloody wounds I received for you and all mankind. You shall diligently and peaceably labour in your several vocations when I hath pleased God to call you. You shall love one another, and cause them that are not baptised to come to church and receive that holy sacrament, that is to say baptism and the supper of the Lord, and be made a member thereof, and in so doing, I will give you long life and many blessings, your land shall be replenished and bring forth abundance, and I will comfort you in the greatest temptations, and surely he that doth so the contrary shall be cursed. I will also send hardness of heart on them until I have destroyed them, but especially on hardened and impenitent unbelievers. He that hath given to the poor shall not be unprofitable. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day, for the seventh day I have taken as a resting day, to myself, and he that hath a copy of this letter written with my own hand and spoken with my own mouth, and keepeth it without publishing it to others shall not prosper; but he that publisheth it to others, shall be blessed of me, and if he is as many as there is stars in the sky, and if they truly believe they shall be pardoned, and they that believe not this my writing and my commandments I will send my plagues upon you and consume you and your children, goods and cattle and all other worldly enjoyments that I have given you. Do but once think of what I have suffered for you. If you do, it will be well with you both in this world and that which is to come. Whosoever shall have a copy of this letter and keepeth it in their houses nothing shall hurt them, neither pestilence, lightning nor thunder, and if any woman be in birth and put her trust in me she shall be delivered of her birth. You shall hear no more news of me, but by the holy Scriptures, until the day of judgment. All goodness and prosperity shall be in the house where a copy of this shall be found."

### An Earthquake Shock.

Huntington, Pa., Dec. 25.—A very perceptible shock of earthquake was felt in this section on this morning between three and four o'clock lasting only a few seconds and apparently moving from Southeast to Northwest. The shock was sufficient to awake many persons from their slumbers.

You can buy boots and shoes cheaper at the Bee Hive than anywhere else. Better try it.